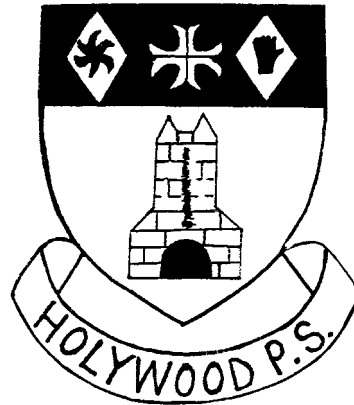


# Hollywood Primary School



## Policy for Pastoral Care

## **INTRODUCTION**

We in Holywood Primary School have a responsibility for the care, welfare and safety of our pupils.

The school's vision provides the basis for this policy; the promotion of our agreed values and beliefs means a pupil-centred approach.

We believe that Pastoral Care is effective when 'all members of staff are fully committed to creating an environment of care and trust, thereby ensuring the emotional and physical welfare of the pupils as well as their academic progress.' (Evaluating Pastoral Care 1999) In Holywood Primary School we believe that pastoral care should permeate all our activities.

## **GENERAL FOCUS**

As part of a team, we all have a caring commitment to guide and advise our pupils, both formally and informally, on personal and educational matters. We believe that the pastoral dimension in our school contributes to the creation of a supportive atmosphere for both pupils and teachers alike.

It is important that all relevant agencies involved in education and care cooperate for the benefit of the child. All schools have a Designated and Deputy Designated Teacher for Child Protection, who liaise with the Principal, staff and relevant agencies when appropriate. The effective functioning of this structure relies on the skills and expertise of every class teacher and adult within school, and their recognition and reporting of concerns.

At Holywood Primary School, Mrs Clarke is the Designated Teacher for Child Protection and Mrs Gibson is the Deputy Designated Teacher. Mrs Crookshanks is also a member of the Child Protection Team as is the Designated Governor, Mrs Roisin Scott. All staff have total commitment to the safeguarding and pastoral care of the children at Holywood Primary School. They raise children's awareness about themselves through Personal Development and other areas of the curriculum, in addition to developing a climate of trust so that children feel able to talk and share their thoughts and feelings.

### **AIMS OF PASTORAL CARE IN HOLYWOOD PS**

- To create and maintain an atmosphere where pupils feel they are well known, safe, valued, respected and happy.
- To implement our Code of Practice for Behaviour which takes into consideration the views of all staff and pupils.
- To maintain the highest standards of teaching and learning.
- To ensure that all staff are aware of the Child Protection Procedures through the Safeguarding Team.
- To maintain the school's Child Protection Policy and ensure all members of staff are conversant with it.
- To inform parents of the school's responsibility and roles in child protection and personal safety programmes.
- To keep records of all reported incidents and meetings with external agencies which involve the welfare of pupils.
- To monitor the effectiveness of Pastoral Care with the School Management Team reporting this to school Governors
- To respond in a sympathetic way to the concerns, fears and worries of pupils and so provide a caring, supportive environment.
- To build an atmosphere of trust.
- To make children aware of potential dangers through our Health Education, PSNI Programmes, Drugs Awareness, Road Safety Programme and Personal Development.
- To value all our children for their unique talents and abilities.
- To promote positive attitudes towards healthy living.
- To enable children to make and sustain good relationships with one another and with the adults they encounter.
- To develop children's self esteem through the creation of a happy, secure and settled environment
- To encourage good behaviour and manners as well as self-discipline.
- To promote in children a sense of responsibility for themselves, their actions and possessions as well as respect for others and their property.
- To develop in children an ability and willingness to cooperate not only with their peers but also with all the staff of the school.

## **PROVISIONS**

Throughout the year, a variety of activities will be included to enhance the daily on-going work of pastoral care and extend the pupils' personal experiences and social skills. Some examples include school visits, outdoor education, involvement in the community, National and Local Initiatives (e.g. NI Anti Bullying Week). Membership of school clubs/activities and being involved in social events help to develop a sense of responsibility and worthwhile participation. Other specific activities and procedures include :

- Promotion of an anti-bullying culture through general classroom management and the school's core values, school rules, class rules and the implementation of the Positive Behaviour policy.
- Promotion of core values in assemblies
- School Council
- Dental visits/school nurse visits
- Police visits on safety issues (pedestrian / cycling / use of the Internet).
- Cycling Proficiency annually for P7s
- P7 girls' and boys' talks regarding growing up & personal hygiene.
- Fund raising for selected charities.
- Extra-curricular activities /School clubs.
- Road Safety
- Clear guidelines and rota for all supervisors / teachers on duty.
- Working with Governors and the community to ensure safety at entrances to school.
- Working with Education Authority (EA) and other agencies to increase and improve the security of the school building and playgrounds.

## **LIAISON WITH PARENTS**

Communication with, and the cooperation of parents is essential for the successful all round education of children. We view education as a partnership between parents, pupils and ourselves. Liaising with parents includes:-

- Parent/Teacher consultations
- school prospectus
- school reports
- circulars / letters to home.
- parent information sessions e.g Curriculum Evening, P1 and P6 Information Meetings
- diary of school events / newssheets
- website / texting / emailing service
- Parent Teacher Association
- notices displayed in school
- verbal contact – school / parent initiated.
- school productions, Carol Service, musical & sporting events
- Annual Governors' Report to Parents

**Parents are welcome to contact the school at any time by making an appointment through the School Office.**

### **LIAISON WITH EXTERNAL AGENCIES**

When it is deemed necessary, and following discussion between the school's Senior Management Team and the Chairman of the Board of Governors, appropriate consultation and communication may be initiated with one or more of these agencies:

EA (SE Region)

Educational Psychologist

Education Welfare Officer

Social Services

PSNI

School Nurse

Other Special Schools/groups/consultants where pupils may be attending

*No contact with any agency should be initiated without the prior consent of the Principal or Chairperson of the Board of Governors.*

On occasions, the school may be made aware of individual family issues that have consequences for the child(ren) at school. The school will seek confidential guidance from EA as issues arise and will continue current procedures regarding communication to both parents, releasing children to parents/carers when the child is going home and the name by which the child is known, until a Court Order or equivalent legal document is issued to the Principal.

Content from the Pastoral Care Policy will also be referred to in a number of other school policies.

Policy to be next reviewed 2022 or earlier if required